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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 DAR ES SALAAM 000428

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/EX AND AF/E

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [APER](#) [AMGT](#) [TZ](#)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RETENTION OF ONE-TIME FILL POLITICAL OFFICER POSITION IN DAR ES SALAAM

REF: A) STATE 29976

-- B) 02 STATE 268674

1. SUMMARY: Embassy Dar es Salaam requests that the FO-04 POL T/JORP (#14050000, vice Peterson) position be retained. The loss of this position will severely impede post's ability to achieve critical counter terrorism, democracy and governance, humanitarian assistance, and other MPP goals, and would seriously limit our ability to engage the GOT in several areas at a particularly critical juncture. END SUMMARY.

2. Embassy Dar es Salaam believes that the FO-04 POL T/JORP (#14050000, vice Peterson) position may appear on the One-Time Fill list by mistake. Post has never seen any indication that this was not a permanent position and the Department's staffing pattern shows the position as R (regular), rather than X (one-time). Confirmation that this position had been created is contained in 02 STATE 268674, which makes no mention that it would be a One-Time Fill only. If the One-Time Fill designation is correct, post urgently requests that the position be retained. For the reasons outlined below, post cannot absorb the loss of this position at this time.

3. First, Tanzania has just assumed a seat on the UN Security Council, which it will hold through 2006. As such, Tanzania will be directly involved in numerous high-priority and contentious issues, including the UN and AU roles in Darfur, peace efforts in the Great Lakes region, and Security Council reform. These will all require our active and continuous engagement with the GOT. Post is already experiencing a substantial increase in demarches as a result and expects greater workload demands in the coming year as we help the GOT navigate through this critical period.

4. In addition, Tanzania will hold national elections in October 2005, and the likelihood of fraud, violence, and related turmoil on Zanzibar is very high. The P/E Section will need to closely monitor and report as election events unfold, and engage vigorously with the Governments of Tanzania and Zanzibar to ensure elections are free and fair, and that violence is averted. The P/E Section can ill afford to lose one-third of its officer strength at this juncture.

5. Terrorism remains a critical threat in Tanzania, and Counter Terrorism is the number one Mission priority. The incumbent plays a key role by conducting innovative Muslim outreach by visiting Muslim neighborhoods to report on issues of popular concern, such as the political impact of madrassa education, and to reach out to up-and-coming young Muslims. Without this position, post's Muslim outreach program will have to be severely curtailed. The incumbent also monitors aviation security and recently uncovered a massive corruption ring at Tanzanian airports targeting international flights. If this position is cut, post will not have the personnel to provide the continuous close scrutiny of aviation security that is required in this environment.

5. Tanzania continues to host over 400,000 refugees, one of the largest refugee populations in Africa. With continued volatility in eastern Congo and upcoming elections in Burundi, the prospect of renewed refugee flows in either direction is very substantial. As post's designated refugee POC, the incumbent spends about 25 percent of her time generating support for US refugee policy and monitoring and reporting on hot button refugee issues like recruitment of child soldiers. Post must continue pressing for voluntary return to avoid potentially destabilizing Congo and Burundi. The loss of this position will cripple post's vital work in this area.

6. Human trafficking is a major issue in Tanzania, and Tanzania is currently on the Tier Two Watchlist. As the Trafficking point person, the incumbent is key to generating understanding of the issue among government officials and motivating action to combat it. The incumbent helped create an anti-trafficking task force in Tanzania and her continued attention contributed to Tanzania's first-ever arrest for trafficking in persons. Moreover, the incumbent is responsible for coordinating approximately USD 2 million of

trafficking assistance through the Presidential Initiative on Trafficking. Without post's dedicated attention to this issue, Tanzania is unlikely to progress beyond Tier Two Watchlist status.

17. Finally, post's entire P/E section will turn over this summer, so there will be no P/E veterans available to assume extra duty if this position is cancelled. Post will also have a new DCM/Charge, new Ambassador, new Regional Affairs Officer, new Defense Attach, and new RSO. The loss of one third of the officer strength of the Pol/Econ section would be a severe blow that would cripple our ability to achieve MPP goals, and to engage with the GOT at a key juncture. Post urgently requests that this position be retained and filled as expeditiously as possible.

Owen